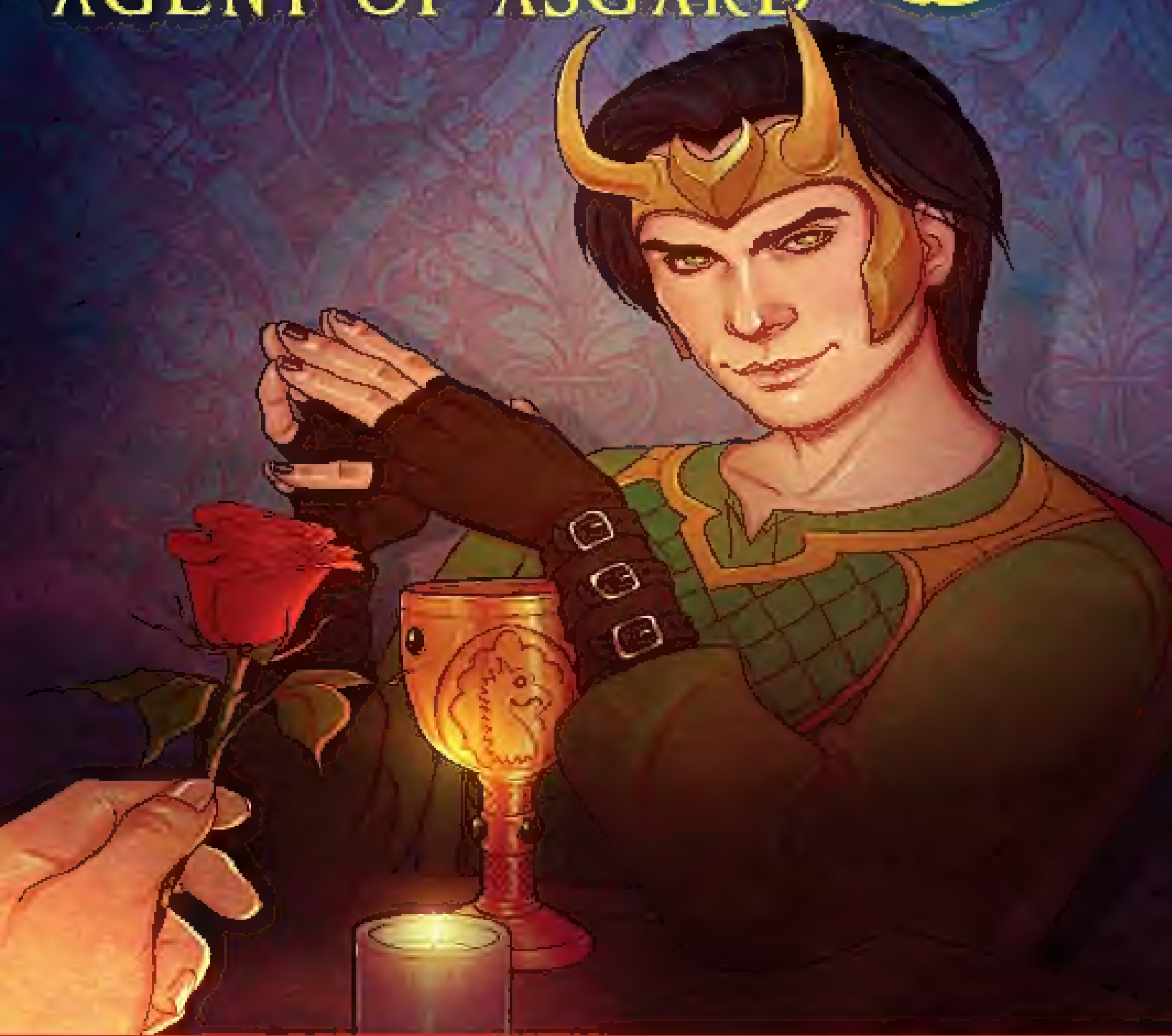


LOKI

AGENT OF ASGARD



ALL-NEW
MARVEL
NOW!

EWING
GARRETT
WOODARD

002

THIS IS THE STORY OF LOKI.

LOKI WAS THE GOD OF EVIL. BUT HE DIDN'T WANT TO BE. SO HE
DIED AND BEGAN AGAIN.

TO THE SURPRISE OF ALL, THE NEW KID LOKI WAS A GOOD AND
KIND AND HELPFUL TRICKSTER, BELOVED BY HIS BROTHER THOR
AND GRUDGINGLY SEMI-TRUSTED BY ALL, OR MOST, ASGARDIANS.
SO NATURALLY THE GHOST OF HIS OLD SELF – OR PERHAPS MERELY
AN ECHO OF IT – ANNIHILATED THE KID VERSION FOREVER, STOLE
HIS BODY AND WORE IT WITH NONE THE WISER.

(TO THIS DAY, NO ASGARDIAN KNOWS.)

IT WAS A BLANK SLATE. A CONTINUE. A WAY FOR LOKI TO HAVE HIS
FRESH START AND EAT IT TOO, TO CHANGE WITHOUT DYING. BUT
THE TERROR OF ONE DAY SLIPPING BACK INTO WHAT HE'D ONCE
BEEN, OF HIS CHANGES REVERSING – OF HAVING THE MURDER OF
HIS OWN SELF BE FOR NOTHING – LED HIM TO STRIKE A BARGAIN
WITH ASGARDIA'S RULING TRIUMVIRATE, THE ALL-MOTHER.

NEW LEGENDS FOR OLD. SECRET MISSIONS FOR THE THRONE OF
ASGARD PERFORMED IN EXCHANGE FOR PAST CRIMES BEING
WIPED FROM THE HISTORY BOOKS, SO THEIR GRAVITY COULD NO
LONGER PULL HIM BACK TOWARDS HIS OLD SELF.

MISSIONS LIKE RESCUING THOR FROM AN EVIL, CORRUPTING
FORCE THAT HAD INVADED HIS BLOOD AND MIND. A FORCE LOKI
TRAPPED IN A RUNIC JAR AND DELIVERED TO THE ALL-MOTHER.
A FORCE THAT – WHEN THE ALL-MOTHER RECOGNIZED IT AND
RELEASED IT, OUT OF LOKI'S SIGHT AND HEARING – LOOKED FOR
ALL THE WORLD LIKE...

LOKI.

THE OLD, DEAD LOKI. SEEKING BARGAINS AND SPEAKING OF THE
YET-TO-COME.

THIS IS THE STORY...OF THE AGENT OF ASGARD.





ARE WE?

Loki and Lorelei. Sitting in a Tree...

Al Ewing
Writer

Lee Garbett
Artist

Nolan Woodard
Color Artist

VC's Clayton Cowles
Letterer

Jonny Frison
Cover Artist

Jon Moir
Asst. Editor

Wil Moss

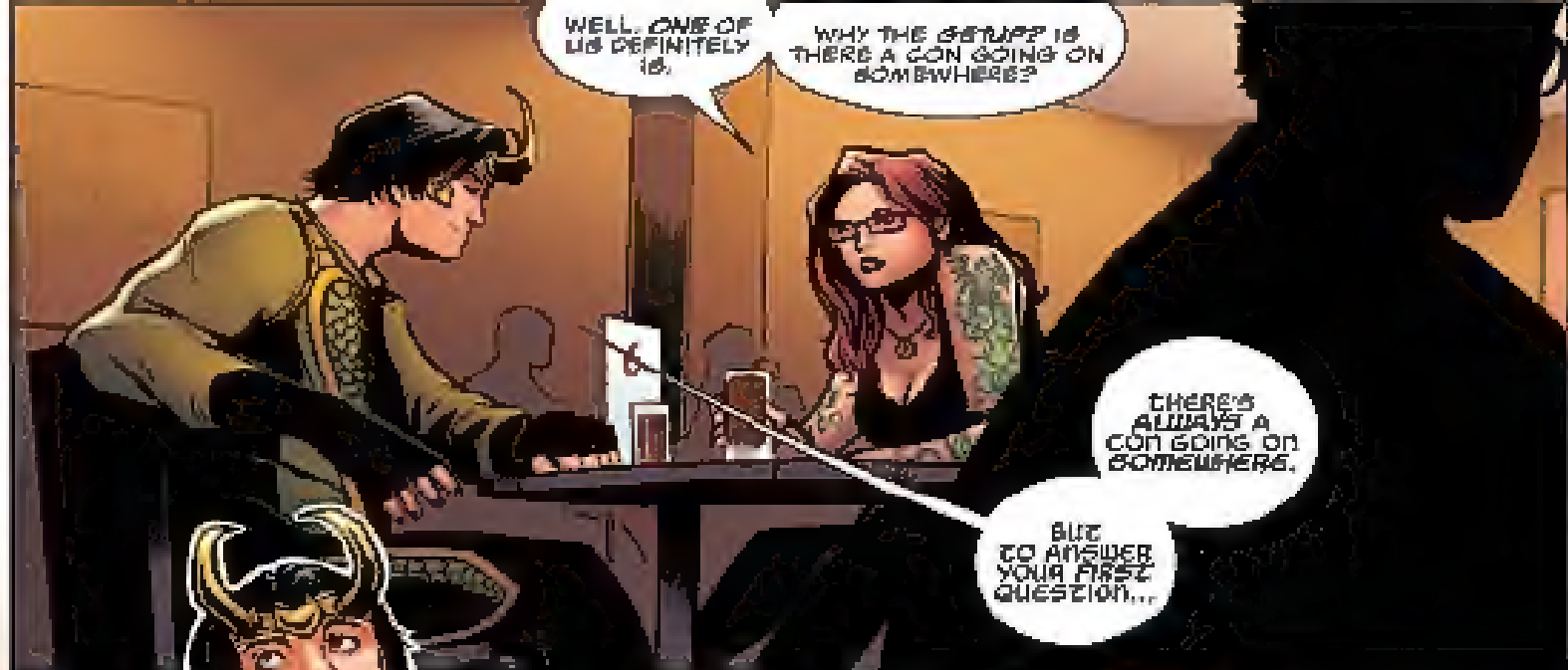
Lauren Santovetti
Editor

Phil Alonso
Editor in Chief

Joe Quesada
Chief Creative Officer

Dan Buckley
Publisher

Alan Fine
Exec. Producer



WELL, ONE OF US DEFINITELY IS.

WHY THE HELL IS THERE A CON GOING ON SOMEWHERE?

THERE'S ALWAYS A CON GOING ON SOMEWHERE.

BUT TO ANSWER YOUR FIRST QUESTION...



...I'M ACTUALLY LOKI, NORSE GOD OF MISCHIEF HERE ON A TOP-SECRET SPY MISSION FROM THE ALL-MOTHER-- THE RULING TRIUMVIRATE OF ASGARDIA--

--IN RETURN FOR HAVING ONE OF MY MANY CRIMES STRICKEN FROM ALL GODLY RECORDS.

I KNOW, IT SOUNDS LIKE THE MOST RIDICULOUS LIE...



...BUT IT'S NOT, IS IT?

...NO.

WHAT... WHAT'S YOUR, UM, YOUR MISSION?

A CERTAIN GODDESS NAMED LORELEI.



I... I DON'T KNOW WHO THAT IS...



OF COURSE YOU DON'T.



THIS IS LORELEI.

YOUNGER SIBLING OF:
AMORA, THE ENCHANTRESS.
(THEY DON'T GET ALONG.)

STATUS: ALIVE.
USUALLY.

MISSED RAGNAROK AND
SUBSEQUENT RESURRECTIONS.
ABLE TO EVADE HEIMDALL'S
GAZE AS A RESULT.
(SEE ALSO: SIGURD.)

OCCASIONAL
ENEMY OF:
ASSGARD, THE
DEFENDERS,
PLUTO.

EX-PARAMOUR OF:
THOR. VIA SORCERY.

(ALSO LOKI.
HER SISTER STILL
THINKS THAT WAS
VIA SORCERY.)

MISSION: RETURN
LORELEI TO--

WAIT
WAIT WAIT.
TIME OUT.
PLEASE.

WHAT ARE
YOU DOING IN
THE PUNCH?



THREE
WEEKS
PRIOR:

MANIFESTING,
LOKI. TO HAVE
THOUGHT THAT
WAS OBVIOUS.

WE HAVE
ANOTHER
MISSION
FOR YOU.



IT'S TIME
ALL THOSE
ASGARDIANS
CHOOSING TO WANDER
MIDGARD WERE
BROUGHT HOME
TO THEIR--



MOTHER--MY
NEW NEIGHBORS
WILL BE HERE ANY
MINUTE. WHAT AM
I SUPPOSED TO
SAY TO THEM?

"PLEASE!
COME IN! TRY
A REFRESHING
GLASS OF MY
FOSTER
MOTHER'S
HEAD!"

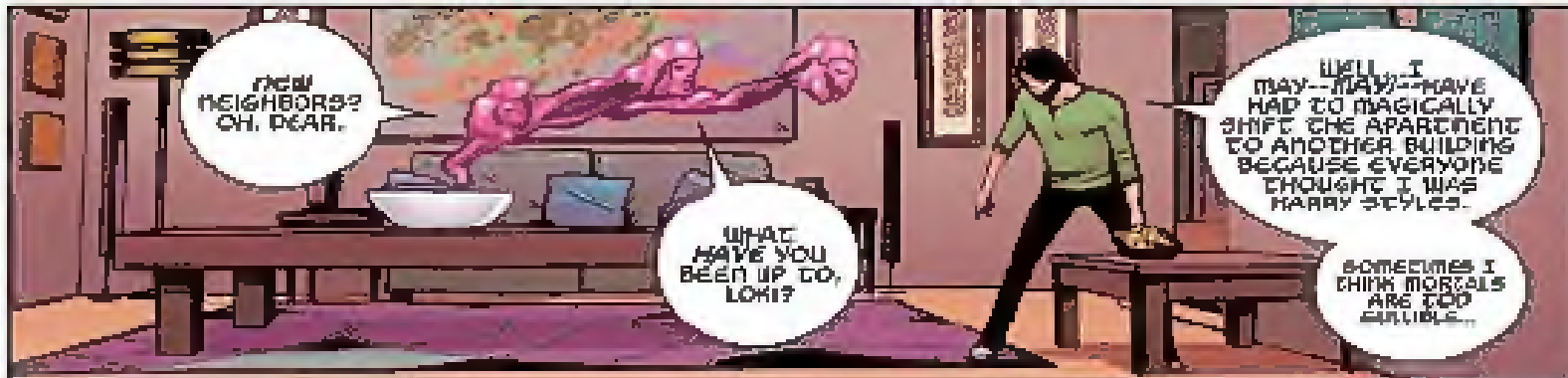


NEW
NEIGHBORS?
OH, DEAR.

WHAT
HAVE YOU
BEEN UP TO,
LOKI?

WELL--I
MAY--MAY--HAVE
HAD TO MAGICALLY
SHIFT THE APARTMENT
TO ANOTHER BUILDING
BECAUSE EVERYONE
THOUGHT I WAS
HARRY POTTER.

SOMETIMES I
THINK MORTALS
ARE TOO
GUILTY...



LOOK AT
LEAST TRY TO
STAY OVER THE
BOWL--

AREN'T YOU
CURIOUS AS TO
WHERE LORELEI
MIGHT BE NOW LOKI?

I SEEM
TO REMEMBER
YOU TWO WERE ONCE
SOMEWHAT CLOSE...



WELL...
YES, WE
WERE.

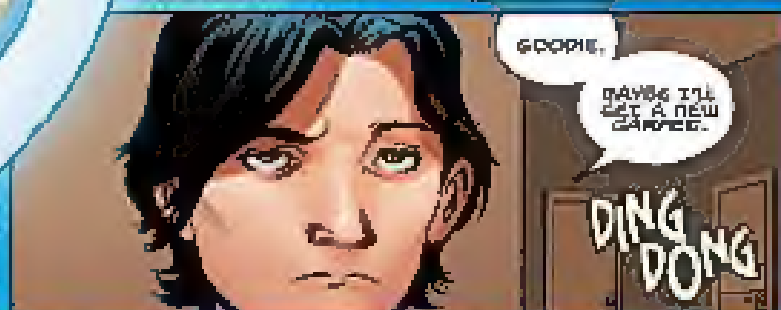
SOMEWHAT.

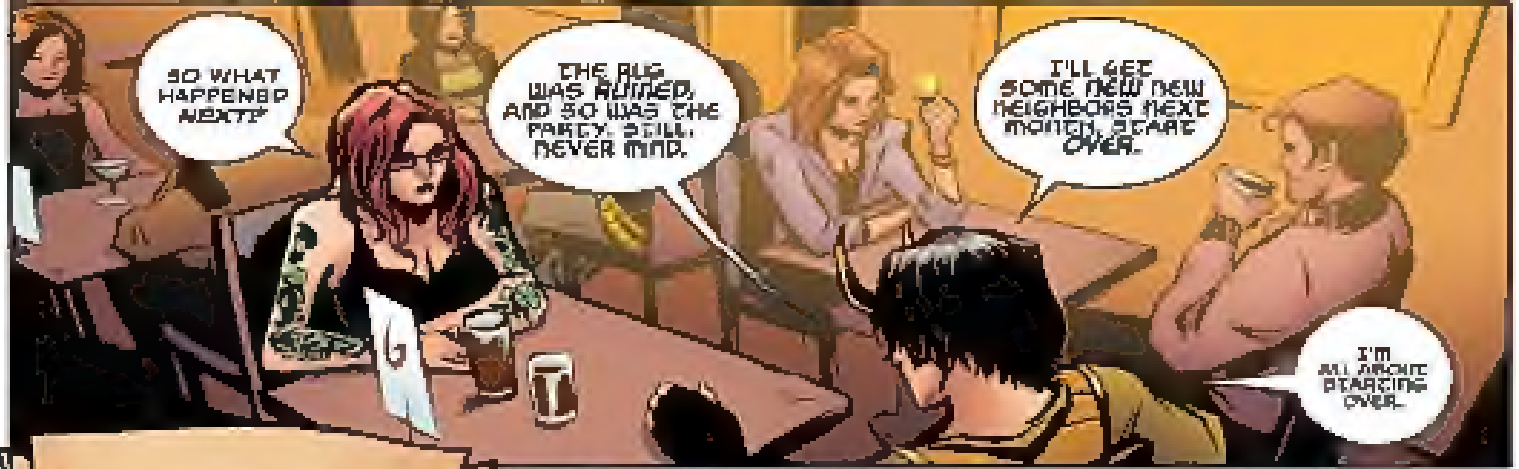




A BRIEF REMINDER:
LOKI ANNIHILATED THE
NEWER ITERATION OF
HIMSELF AND STOLE
HIS BODY.

I AM THE
CRIME CHASE
WILL NOT BE
FORGIVEN.





SO WHAT
HAPPENED
NEXT?

THE RUG
WAS RUINED,
AND SO WAS THE
PARTY. STILL,
NEVER MIND.

I'LL GET
SOME NEW NEW
NEIGHBORS NEXT
MONTH. BEARS
OVER.

I'M
ALL ABOUT
BEARING
OVER.

ANYWAY...

PARIS.



"FINDING
LORELEI WAS THE
EASY PART.

"HATED YOUNGER SIBLINGS,
LOW-DOWN DIRTY TRICKSTERS,
OF COURSE WE'D THINK ALIKE."

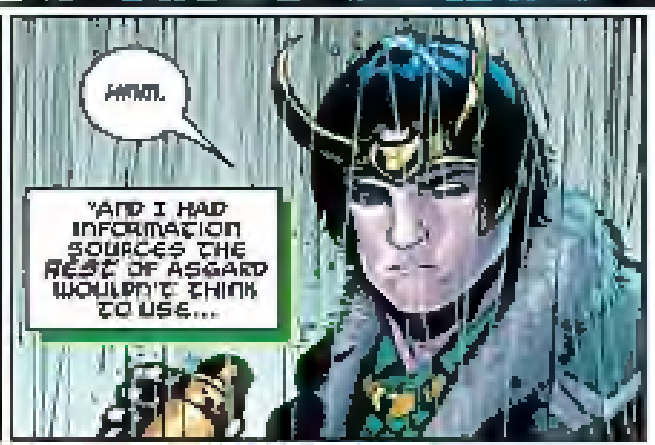


SID THE
LOUVRE?
A FAKE.
ALAS,??

THEN
YOU MAY
NAME YOUR
PRICE!

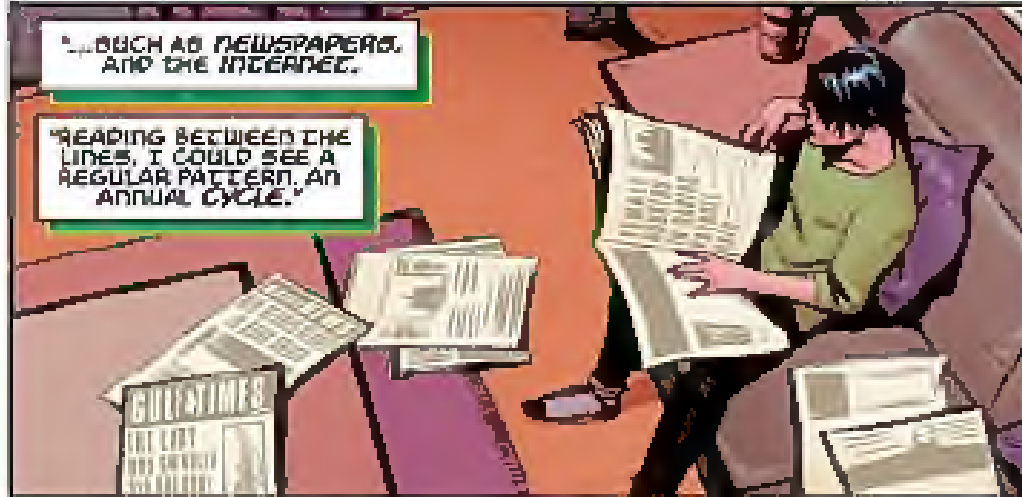
<THE REAL
THING IS IN MY
POSSESSION...>

"LIP-READ FROM
THE FRENCH,



MMH.

"AND I HAD
INFORMATION
SOURCES THE
REST OF ASSGARD
WOULDN'T THINK
TO USE..."



"...SUCH AS NEWSPAPERS,
AND THE INTERNET.

"READING BETWEEN THE
LINES, I COULD SEE A
REGULAR PATTERN, AN
ANNUAL CYCLE."



ONE
SOLID
MONEY OF
CONS, GRIFES,
SCAMS,
BUNDLES, ET
CETERA...

...ALL TO
BANKROLL
THE REAL
JOB.

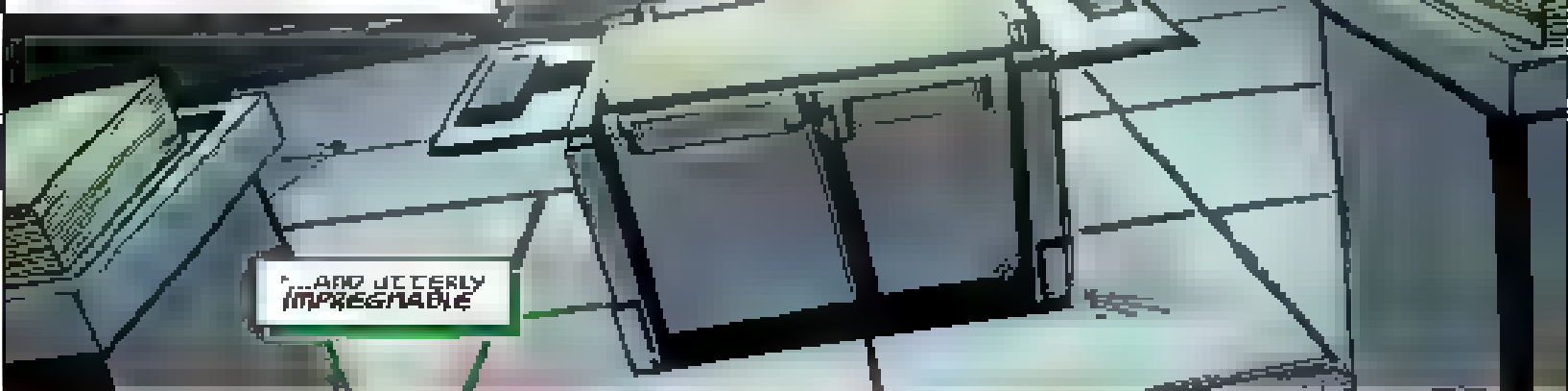
THIS IS THE CASINO.
MONTE CARLO. FOR THE SUPER-RICH ONLY



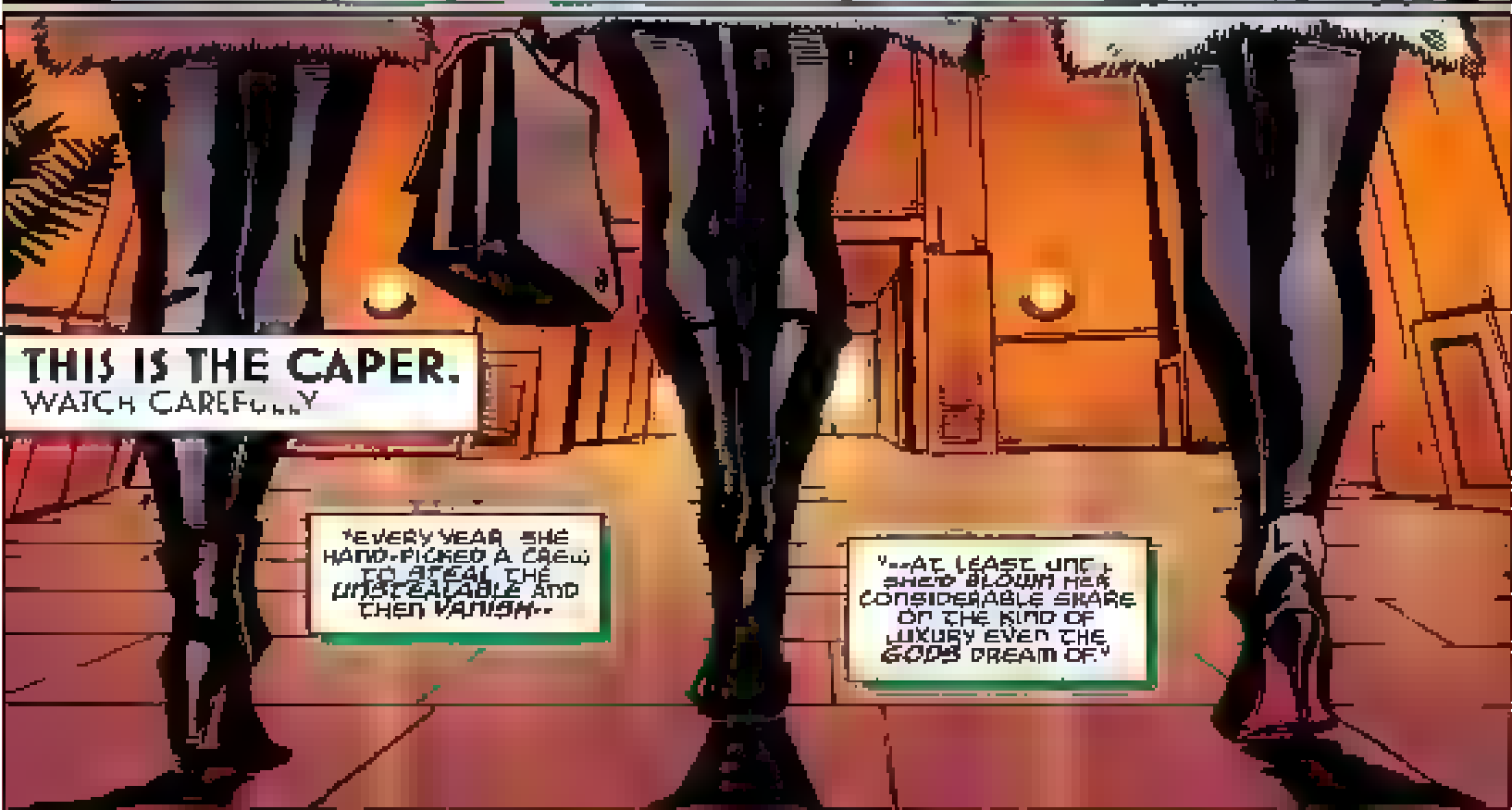
"A HEIST.

"ALWAYS SOMEWHERE
INFINITELY GLAMOROUS.

THIS IS THE LOOT.
ONE BILLION EUROS SEALED
IN THE MOST SECURE VAULT
KNOWN TO MAN



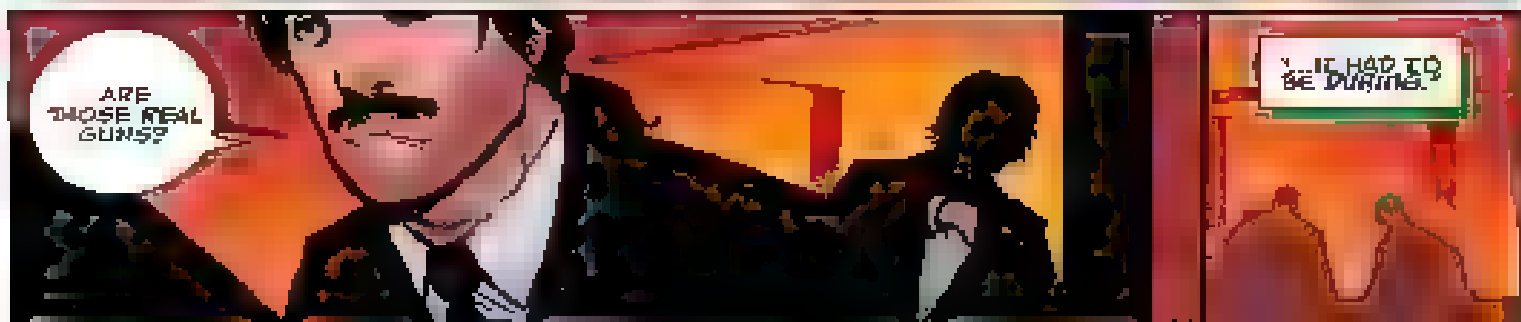
"AND UTTERLY
IMPREGNABLE

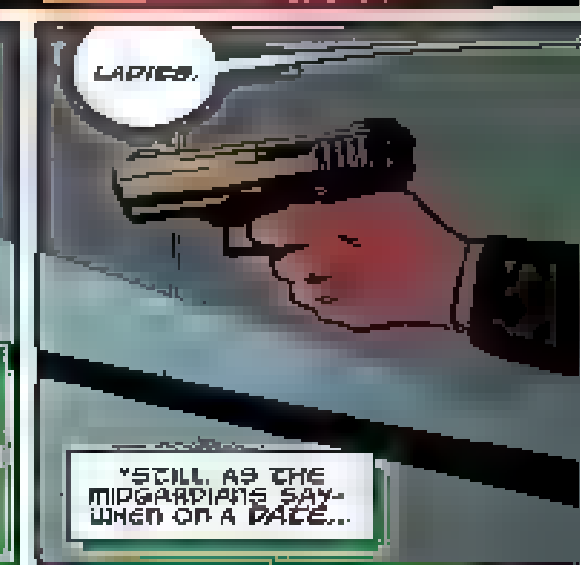
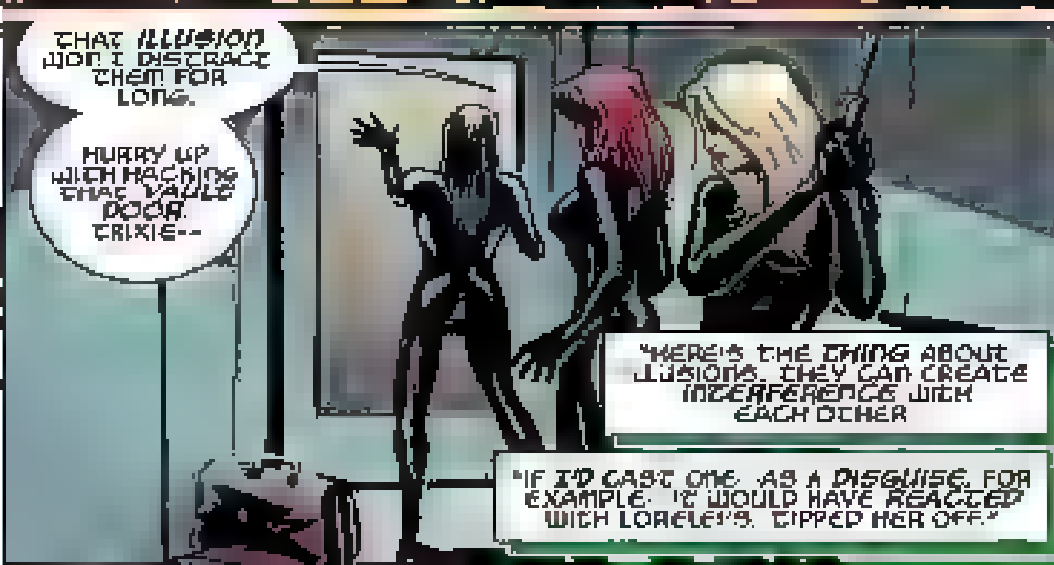


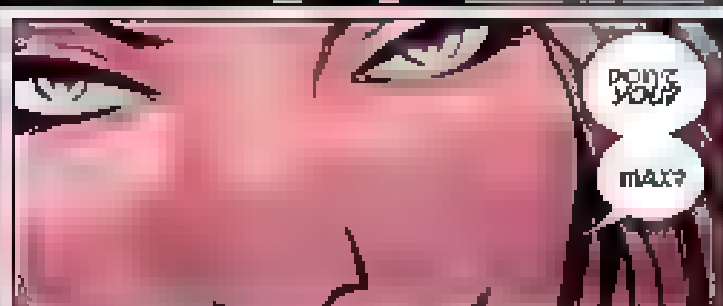
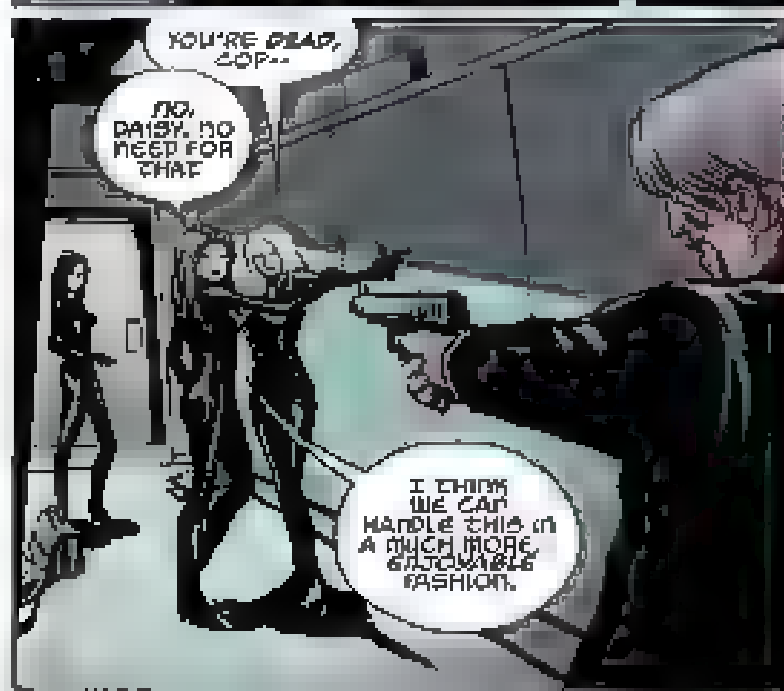
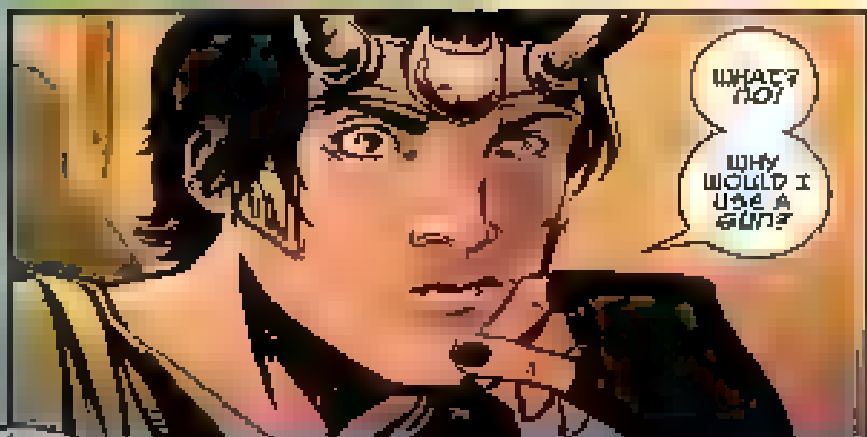
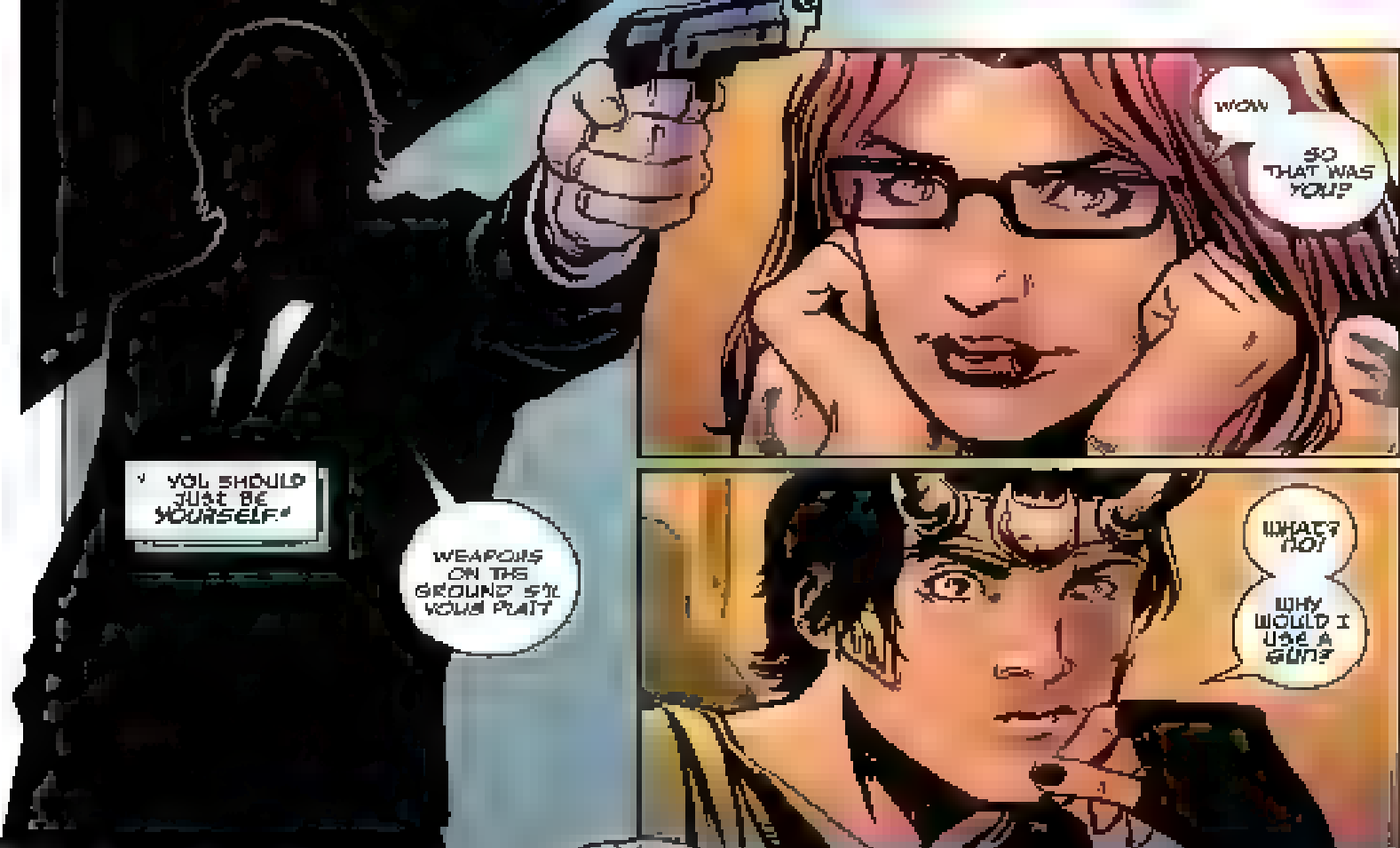
THIS IS THE CAPER.
WATCH CAREFULLY

"EVERY YEAR SHE
HAND-PICKED A CREW
TO STEAL THE
UNSTEALABLE AND
THEN VANISH--

"--AT LEAST UNTIL
SHE'D BLOWN HER
CONSIDERABLE SHARE
ON THE KIND OF
LUXURY EVEN THE
GODS DREAM OF."







HOW CAN
I TELL HER--
SHE'S UNDER
ARREST?!

*She
Hosted My
Heart!*

AN OXIE
BUT A
GOODIE

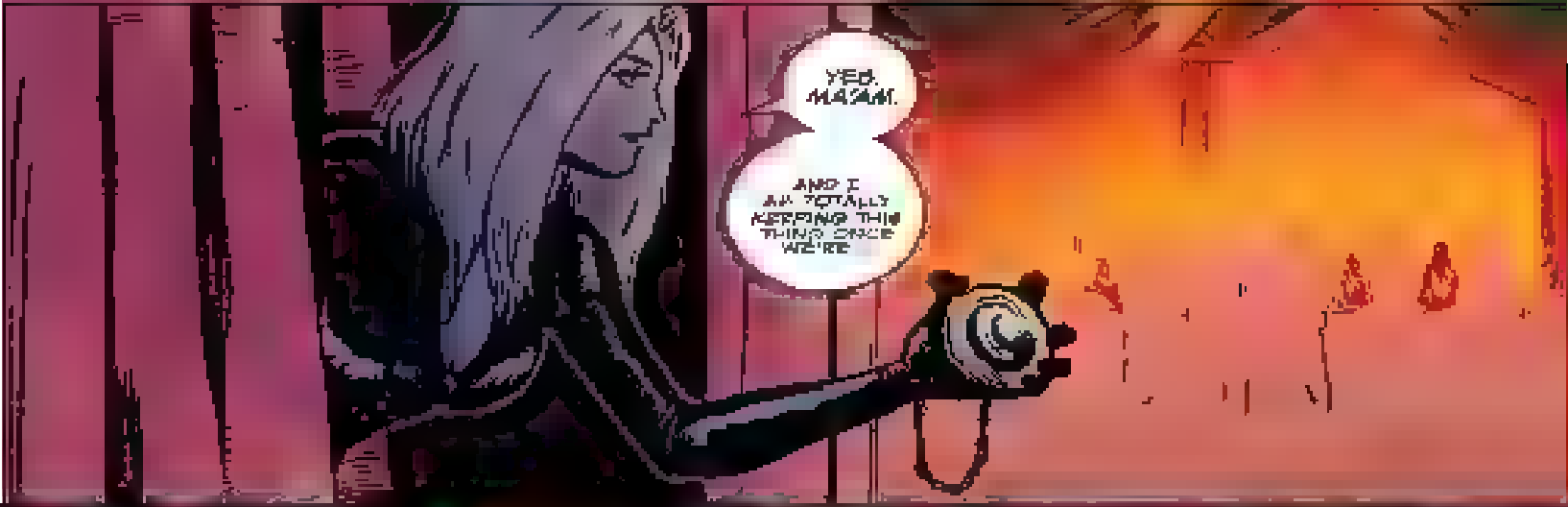
WE CAN
DREAM DREAMY
DREAMS OF
ROMANCE FOR
AN HOUR OR
TWO..

--WHILE
WE GET ON
WITH THE HEIST
HOLDING THAT
DOOR, CRUISE?

TWENTY
SECONDS.

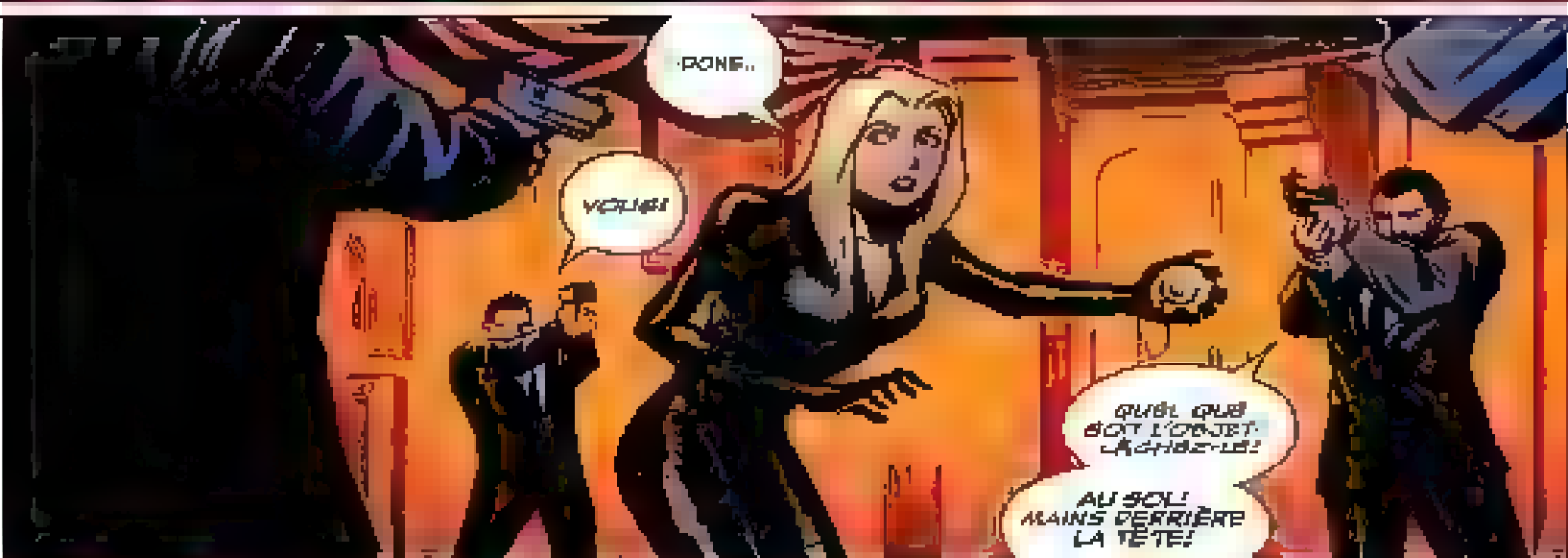
GOOD
GIRL

DAISY--
YOU TAKE
THE AMULET
OF INVISIBILITY
AND GO BRING THE
CAR AROUND.



YES, MA'AM.

AND I AM TOTALLY
KEEPING THIS
THING SINCE
WE'RE



DONE..

VOUS!

QU'IL QUE
BOT L'OBJET.
LACHIEZ-LE!

AU SOL!
MAINS DERRIERE
LA TETE!



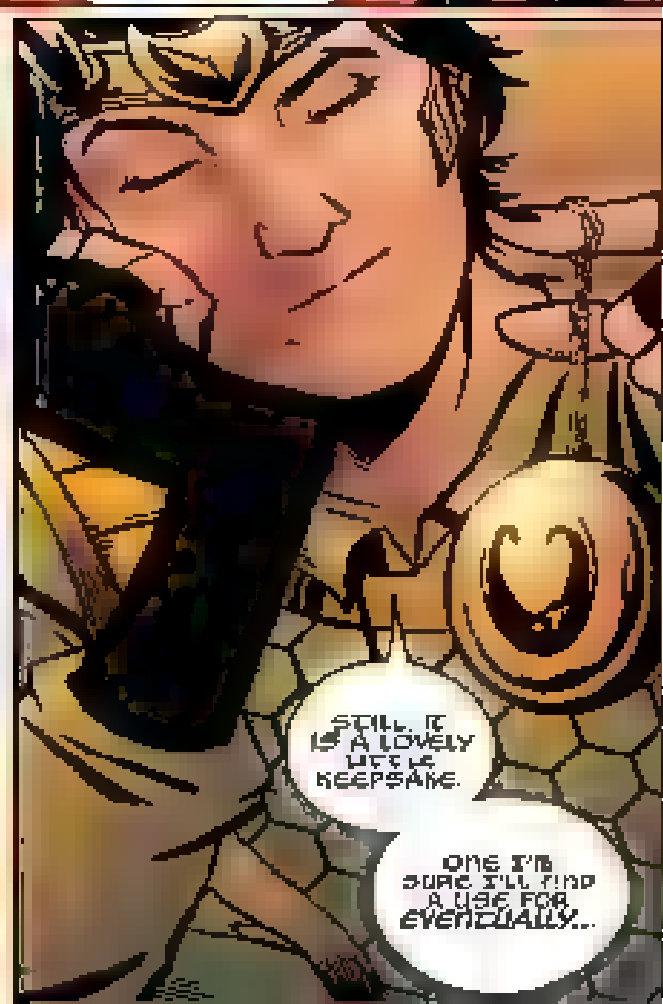
HOW IN
THE ?!

THIS THING
LET US WALK
RIGHT PAST
THESE CLOWNS
A MINUTE
AGO.



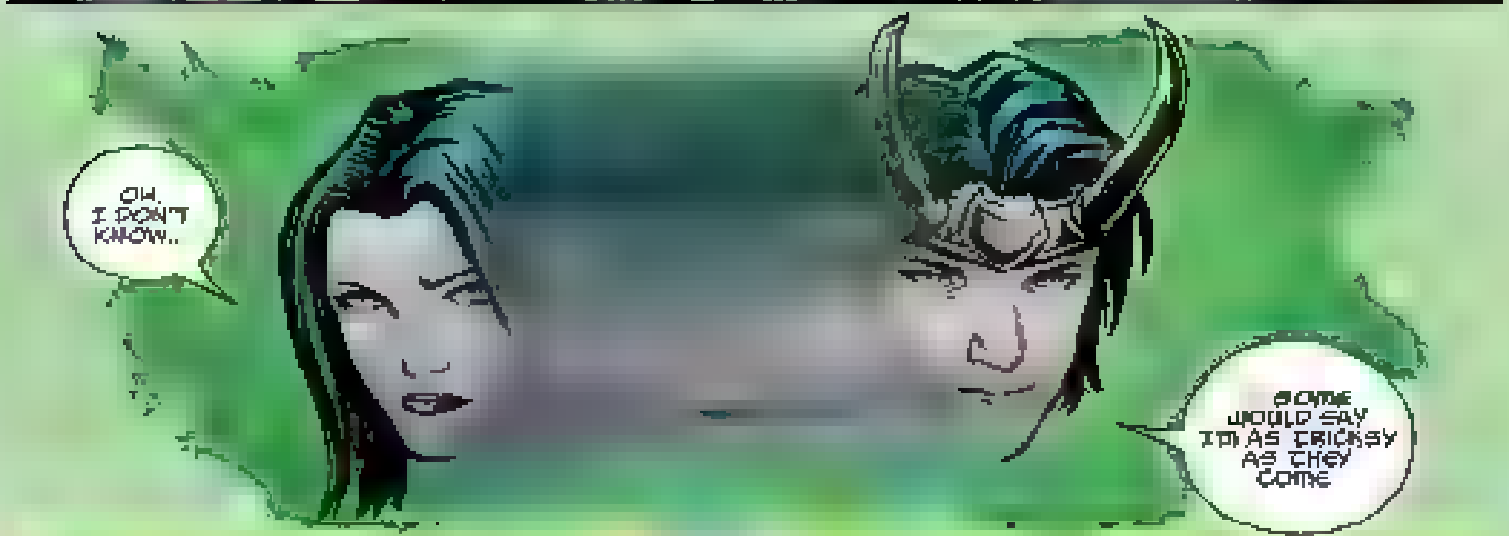
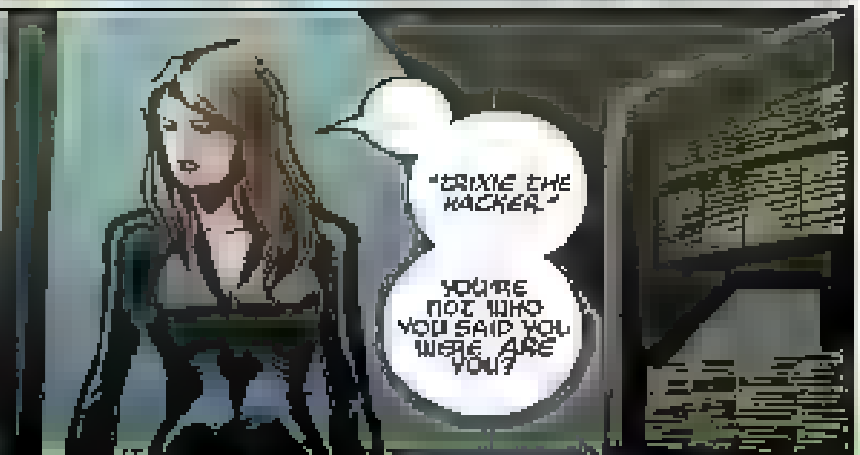
?!

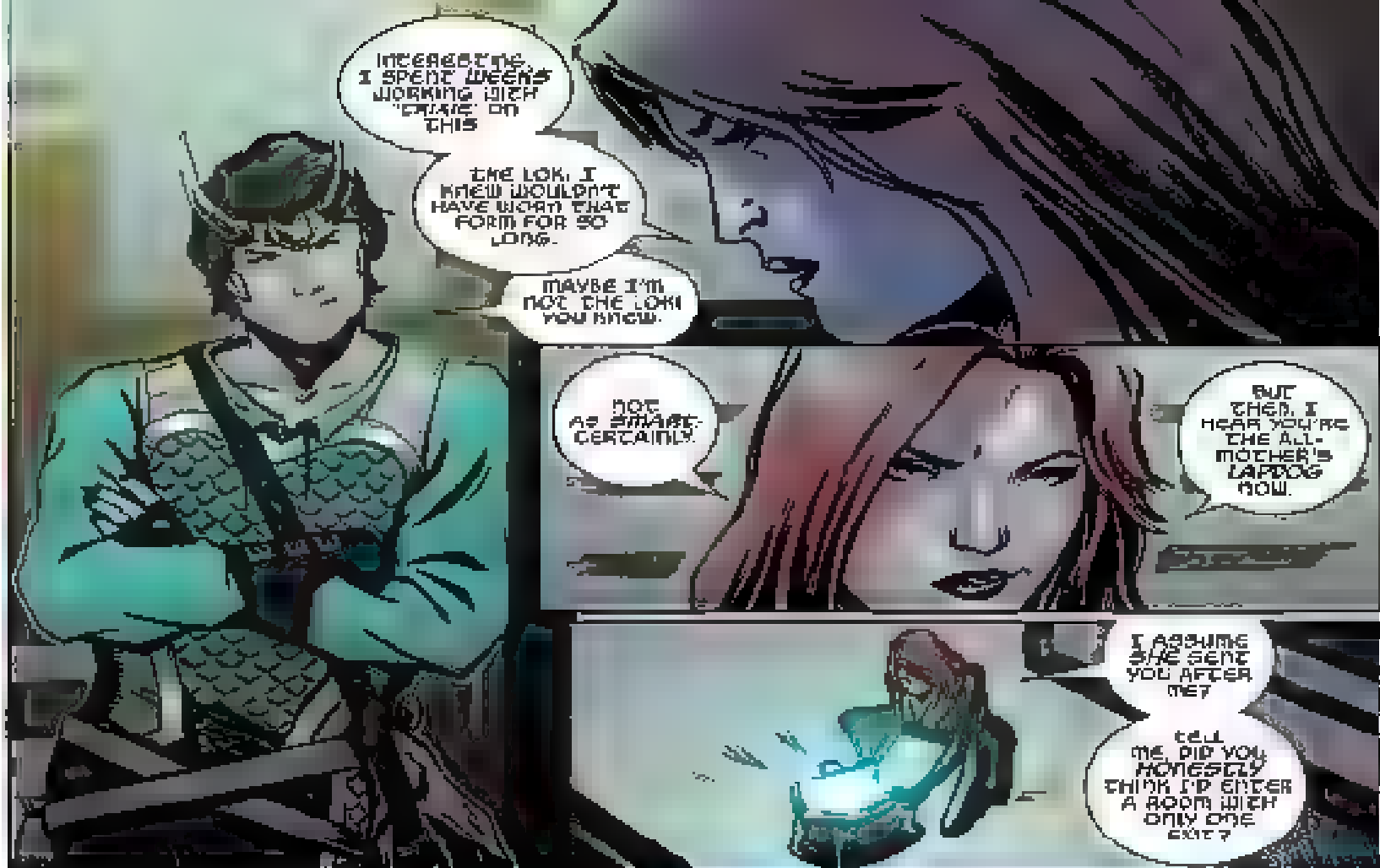
"NOT ONE OF MY
EASIER SWITCHES."



STILL, IT
IS A LOVELY
LITTLE
KEEPSAKE.

ONE I'M
SURE I'LL FIND
A USE FOR
EVENTUALLY..





INTERESTING, I SPENT WEEKS WORKING WITH "CHIEF" ON THIS

THE LOKI I KNEW WOULDN'T HAVE WORN THAT FORM FOR SO LONG.

MAYBE I'M NOT THE LOKI YOU KNOW.

NOT AS SHAME-CERTAINLY.

BUT THEN, I HEAR YOU'RE THE ALL-MOTHER'S LADDOG NOW.

I ASSUME SHE SENT YOU AFTER ME?

TELL ME, DID YOU HONESTLY THINK I'D ENTER A ROOM WITH ONLY ONE EXIT?



OR THAT I WOULDN'T HAVE A SNEAKY PORTAL I PLACE TO MOVE MY BILLION GUARDS WITH?

LORE, E. WHAT?--I'M NOT HERE TO--



FOR SHAME, LOKI THE LADDOG.

MAYBE NEXT TIME WE MEET YOU'LL HAVE GOTTEN YOUR COLLAR OFF HIM?



HEL



OH, WELL

WHEN IN MONGE CARLO.



WOW,
SO NOW
WHAT?

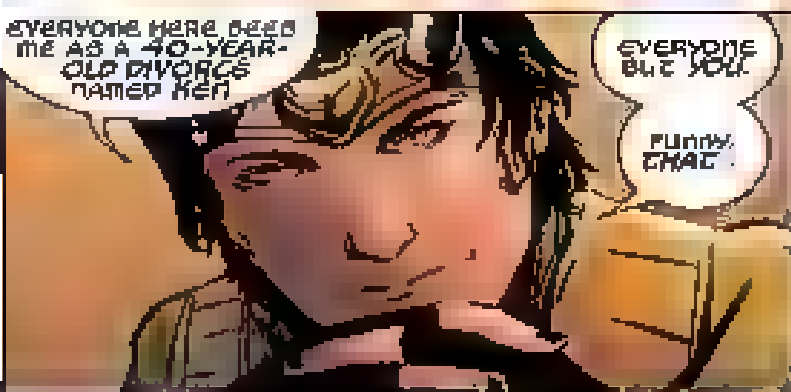
NOW? LORELEI
WILL NEED TO
REBUILD HER CASH
RESERVES. FAST,
WHICH MEANS GOING
BACK TO THE OLD
CLASSICS.

SHE'LL
BE LOOKING
FOR THE EASILY
ENCHANTED--
SINGLETT'S
LOVELORN TYPES
AND THE MORE
THE MERRIER.

SO,
HELLO
SPEED
DATING.

BUT
HERE'S THE
THING

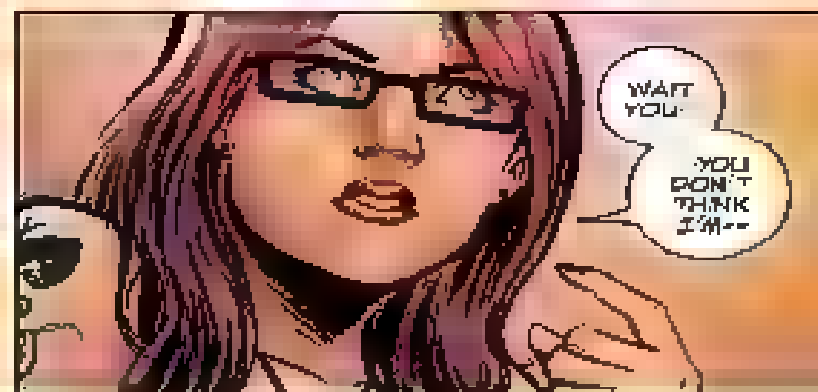
I
DID WEAR
AN ILLUSION
THIS TIME.



EVERYONE HERE BEES
ME AS A 40-YEAR-
OLD DIVORCE
NAMED KEN

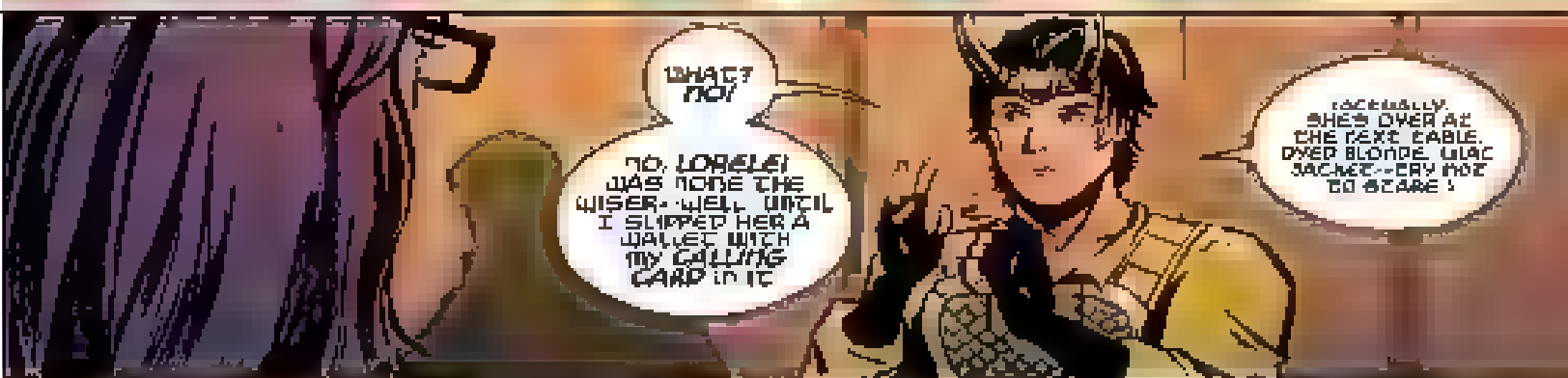
EVERYONE
BUT YOU.

FUNNY
THAT.



WAIT
YOU.

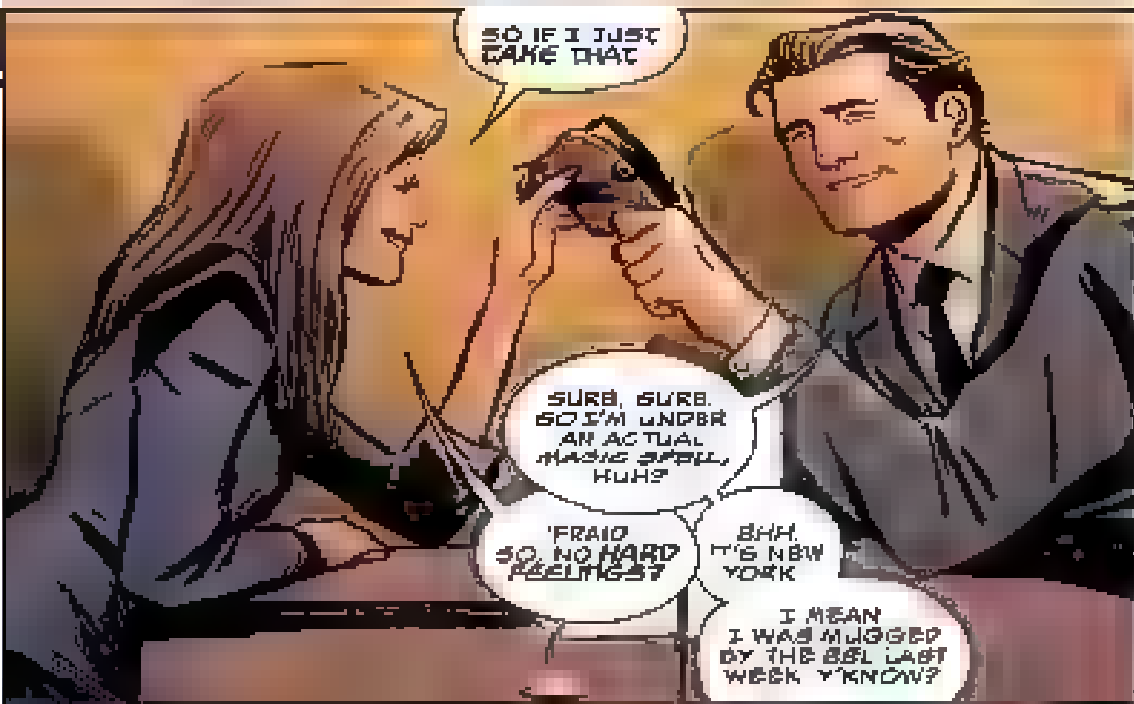
YOU
DON'T
THINK
I'M--



WHAT?
NO!

NO, LORELEI
WAS MORE THE
WISER. WELL, UNTIL
I SLIPPED HER A
WALLET WITH
MY CALLING
CARD IN IT.

TECHNICALLY,
SHE'S OVER AT
THE NEXT TABLE.
DYED BLONDE, LILAC
JACKET--EVEN MORE
TO SCARE!



SO IF I JUST
TAKE THAT

SURE, SURE.
SO I'M UNDER
AN ACTUAL
MAGIC SPELL,
HUH?

'FRAID
SO, NO HARD
FEELINGS?

BHH,
IT'S NEW
YORK

I MEAN
I WAS MUGGED
BY THE BSL LAST
WEEK, Y'KNOW?



ANYWAY,
YOU'RE THE
ONLY PERSON HERE
WHO ACTUALLY
SAW ME.

I'M
CURIOUS
AS TO WHAT



I...
MY NAME
IS VERITY
WILLIS.

NOBODY'S
EVER LIED
TO ME.

"BECAUSE NOBODY CAN,
EVER SINCE I WAS A KID.
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN THROUGH
ANY LIE I'M TOLD, NO MATTER
HOW SMALL OR WELL-
INTENTIONED.

"I WAS THE ONLY
KID WHO NEVER
BELIEVED IN
SANTA CLAUS.

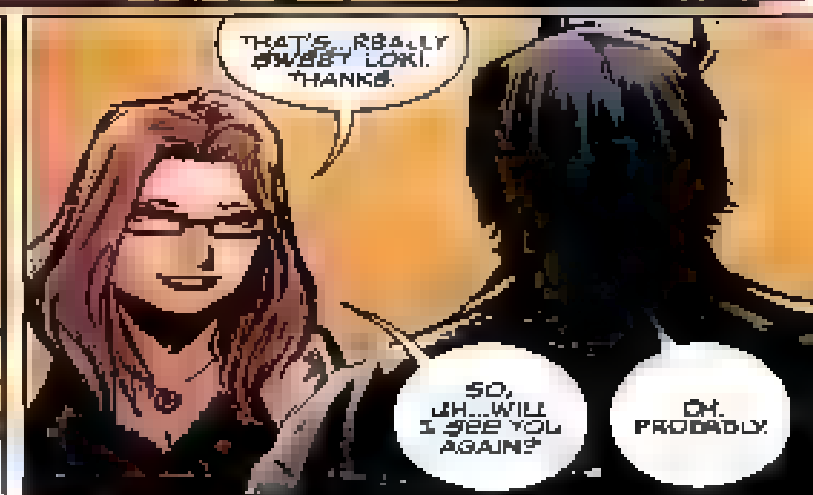
"I WAS ALWAYS
THE FIRST TO
KNOW.

"I CAN'T EVEN WATCH A MOVIE ANY KIND
OF FICTION JUST FRUSTRATES AS PEOPLE
TALK ABOUT SUSPENSION OF DISBELIEF-

"WELL, THAT'S
NOT SOMETHING
I CAN DO.

"SO I SIT AROUND READING
ABOUT PURE MATHEMATICS,
PROGRAMMING, PHYSICS,
THINGS I KNOW ARE
ALWAYS TRUE...

"AND I TRY TO PRETEND
THAT'S ENOUGH... TO LIE
TO MYSELF."





LOW END
LAPROS...

...EXCEPT
LOKI ALWAYS
LIES, DOESN'T
HE?

ARE
YOU EVEN
WORKING FOR
THE ALL-
MOTHER?

OH,
ABSOLUTELY.

AS A
MATTER OF FACT,
I JUST FAILED A
VERY IMPORTANT
MISSION TO BRING
YOU BACK TO
ASGARDIA...

THERE'S
THE SCHEMING
TRICKSTER I
REMEMBER.

SO WHY
AM I RUNNING
FREE HERE AND
NOT LOCKED UP
THERE?

BECAUSE
I'M PUTTING
TOGETHER A
CREW FOR A CAPER
TO MAKE YOUR
CASINO HEIST
LOOK LIKE...

...WELL,
LIKE A
BAD
DANCING
NIGHT.

LOKI OF THE SILVER
TONGUE DOESN'T LIKE
SPEED DANCING? FROM
WHAT I SAW, YOU WERE
DOING QUITE
WELL...

YOU
DIDN'T SEE ME
CRASH AND BURN
ON NEW YEAR'S.
MY TONGUE IS
NOT THE DRAW
IT WAS,
ALAS.

YOU
SEEMED
RATHER TAKEN
WITH THAT
DROEAL
GIRL...

CURIOSITY,
NOTHING MORE.

I'VE ALREADY
PREP HER FROM
MY HAND...

HEH. LIAR.

NEXT:

IF YOU
MEET
THE GIANT
OTTER
ON THE
ROAD...
KILL HIM.

HERE'S LOKI-ING AT YOU

Send letters to MHEROES@MARVEL.COM.

Don't forget to mark "OKAY TO PRINT!"

Dear ACM Team,

Like a lot of Loki fans nowadays, my first introduction to him was through the Marvel Cinematic Universe. The way Tom Hiddleston portrayed him was so refreshing and nuanced, and featured a real line of the character in me. Eventually, that inspired me to start reading the JOURNALS INTO MYSTERY, which, of course, led to me reading even *more* comics. (It's a slippery slope into monthly installments of superhero goodness.) So when I heard that the character who had been the main reason for my getting into comics was getting his own solo book, I was really excited, but a little nervous about how it would be handled. If the first issue is any indication though, I had nothing to be worried about. The writing was insightful and funny, you can tell that Al has got a good idea of who this Loki is and what he wants, and the art was jaw-droppingly gorgeous throughout. This was a great start to what I'm sure will be a great series, and I can't wait for more!

Melissa V.
England

Thanks, Alfred! It's quite a scary thought, knowing that Loki's brought so many people into comics and now it's my turn to write him. There's an element of responsibility there – I don't want to be driving my readers back to those new-fangled movie pictures.

On another note – "Lorely" Lee Garbett's art is gorgeous! That is a true thing.

Dear Mr. Al,

Love the new title and I can't wait to see what's up next, but one thing. Someone should inform Loki on the workings of Midgardian stamps/postal consumer. Remember, one does not read more than a quarter sized dot on the palm for long hair. I personally think Loki must have been hurling it in the air in the unnecessary large amount of fur he created. He was completely covered in it!

But in all seriousness, I was quite sad to see Loki passed on to a new author after Kieron had written him for so long, but my fears are gone. I loved it! Keep being awesome cause.

Betty Noyak
Austin, TX

In Asgard they wash their hair in ale and the realm of crows. 'Conditioner' is a heavy kept only in decadent elven. Loki cannot be faulted for falling victim to the forbidden allure of the 'herbal essence'.

Dear Team Loki,

"Via, readers, I heard you liked Loki so I put 'bad' Loki in your comic of agent Loki so you could double when you trouble!" – that ending (Am I at least allowed to ask which Loki's going on the speed date next issue? ...Yeah, didn't think so.)

This comic is amazing so far. Art is off the chain, in the sky and rocketing far out. Art Duale, you rock. I absolutely LOVE Loki's entertaining and highly gaggle-worthy narration bubbles. Actually, I love everything he says—everything anyone says. The dialogue was perfect—except for that line about One Direction. Never gonna get the mental image of Loki not knowing what makes him beautiful out of my head. Thank you for that.

Mr. Ewing, you may be aware that a large amount of people reading this are teen/young adult girls converted to Lokism after the Ewan-Bethesda reconstruction of our favorite god as played by Tom Hiddleston. This being said, have you ever browsed Tumblr or fictionfix for an idea of the audience you're writing for? Would you ever read fiction about this comic for the gaggles?

Thank you for the awesome comic! I can't wait for issue 2!

Melinda S.
Proudly reading in public in Georgia

PS. I'm going to be the obvious person here but... "Still keeping it Low-key".

I'm on Tumblr at slawingmischief.com, and I do have a ride through the Tumblr tags occasionally – but I don't read fiction. I can't, really – I might come across an idea that's similar to what I'm doing, and then I'd have to abandon it or feel like a big plagiarist. (Between you and me, though, I'm my own target audience – everything in the book is there 'cos it's what I want in a Loki book.)

PS-A fine pun from the last it goes.

Dear Team Loki,

What a great first issue! I loved Loki's interactions with the Avengers, and his dialogue was fun and witty – just what I've come to expect from the character (and no offense, but you've got some big shoes to fill after Gillen). Not to mention that last page – what a cliffhanger, way to reel me right in! I look forward to more of Mr. Garbett's art as well. His expression really sold Loki's chosen (and, um, page two was nice).

I have a few ideas regarding the letter column, only TWO of which are horribly punny:

Days of Our Lives
Lies and Grandeur
Mischiefous Musings

Remember, you brought those on yourselves.

Unregretably,
Halal

Thanks, Halal! Don't I know it about the shoes. Kieron is a very tough act to follow.

That first title especially is the kind of thing we want to see – I'm going to keep the letter column contest open for another month or two, though, and see if we can get some even more generously punny in.

With regard to Loki #1:

Kudos to a hero who provides his own fan-service! My husband suggests that the collective name for a group of Lokis should be a "mischief". Since you have shown two Lokis in the first issue, may I suggest that the letter column be called "A Little Mischief"?

All the best,
Mary L. Johnson, Ph.D.
(and her Mischief of Loki)

We're all about the fan-service here at Loki Towers. I'm also in agreement on the collective name – who knows, maybe we'll get to see the

whole mischief coming together soon. As for the letter column title – not enough pun. I want some real stinkers, people!

After nearly a quarter century away from comics, I finally have a favorite comic again. Thank you, thank you, a mixture of mischief, for a title that from the first has been such an unqualified pleasure to read. I may be (mentally) an adult, but I have very little taste for the gutter sorts of titles out there... but LOKI has humor, that wonderful fracturing of the fourth wall I've always loved, wonderful art.

Oh, and a Tom Hiddleston look-alike singing Broadway show tunes in the shower. And using WEEKEND as the source material was a stroke of genius. Pure Genius.

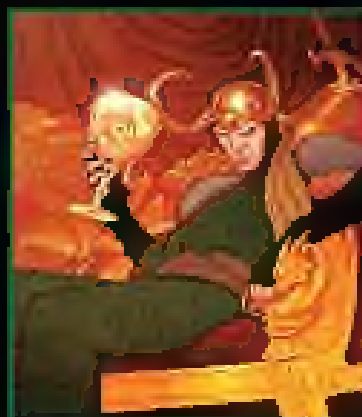
Please, please keep it up – this comic book mama can't wait for issue #2.

Christy

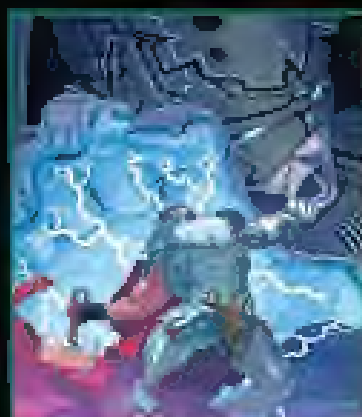
Thank you! Gifs can be great in moderation, but I don't think it's necessarily "adult" – when I was a kid, I loved it. And there's tagedy aplenty coming in Loki in the months to come, so cover the fan town while ya may.

That's enough for now. Until next month, mischief-makers – keep it Loki! (Thanks, Melinda.)

–Al Ewing



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